

*Minutes
Faculty Senate Meeting
April 1, 2020*

The complete Recording for this meeting can be found at:

<https://myau.american.edu/groups/Committee/fs/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx>

Present: Professors: Karen Baehler, John Heywood, Elizabeth Worden Randall Blair, Stefano Costanzi, Max Friedman, Jolynn Gardner, Maria Gomez, Robert Hauswald, Olivia Ivey, Kelly Joiner, Peter Kuznick, Benjamin Leff, Emily Lindsay, Stacey Marien, Garret Martin, Tom Merrill, Lillian Baeza-Mendoza, Danielle Mysliwec, Hannah Park, Andrea Pearson, Zehra Peynircioglu, Rick Semiatin, April Shelford, Jason Snyder, Jordan Tama, Brian Yates, Provost Dan Myers, DOF Mary L. Clark.

Professor Baehler opened the meeting at 2:31 pm

President Burwell's Spring Visit – Sylvia M Burwell

President Burwell began by thanking all the AU community for the outstanding job that every member of the community has done to make the necessary transitions a success. She noted that many decisions have been made and will continue to be made to ensure support for students, faculty, and staff through this very uncertain time.

President Burwell updated the Senate on how the COVID 19 virus is affecting the world and how protection, detection and communication are so important in keeping ahead of the virus and eventually returning to a more normal operation at AU.

A rich Q & A followed, including questions from senators about summer classes, the online graduation ceremony, various budget concerns, and what fall semester could look like. President Burwell also reassured the Senate that the capital campaign is moving forward with sensitivity to the new landscape of needs. She thanked everyone again and assured all that we will make it through this together.

Chair's Report – Karen Baehler

Professor Baehler reported that faculty awards selections have been delayed until after final exams and the ceremony will be postponed until the fall. She also thanked everyone for the expeditious response to the emergency vote on the pass/fail and tenure delay ballots. The floor was opened for discussion of the March minutes. There was no discussion and the senate **VOTED** 26-0-1 in favor.

Provost's Report – Dan Myers

Provost Myers thanked the Senators for their work expediting Covid-related accommodations and all faculty for their amazing work getting the online teaching up and running. The whole community has been outstandingly responsive to changing circumstances and needs. He continued with the following items:

- Summer courses will be held online, and registration will begin on April 6.
- The traditional graduation ceremony will not be held in May, but a virtual recognition of graduates will be held. The hopes are to have a traditional ceremony in the fall.
- The SOC Deans search is in the final stages. The VP for Grad Research and Dean of Graduate Studies are moving towards the airport-interview stages and still working to completion in the early summer.

Faculty Committee on Diversity and Inclusion (FacCDI) – Lilian Baeza-Mendoza & Amitav Acharya

Professor Mendoza presented the following proposed changes to the current bylaws for FacCDI:

- Deleting items 4 and 5 – because charge 4 duplicates final paragraph and charge 5 is outside the committee's purview.
- Replacing "benchmarking" with "targets and recommendation."
- Adding "equity" to committee's name and mission.
- Adding antiracism under functions.
- Adding the Antiracism Policy Research Center as one of the committee's stakeholders.

The Senate discussed the changes and **VOTED** 24-0-0 in favor.

Committee on Information Services (CIS) – Brian Yates

Professor Yates presented the following proposed changes to the CIS bylaws:

- Aligning the committee term length with other Senate committees, which involves increasing them from two years to three years.
- Establishing a pattern of succession for the chair and vice-chair allowing them to serve in these positions either in their first or second year of their term

The Senate **VOTED** 25-0-0 in favor.

Committee on Scholarship Bylaw Changes – Karen Baehler

Professor Baehler submitted a proposed change to the new Committee on Scholarships' bylaws to add the Director of CTRL as a non-voting *ex-officio* member of the committee. The Senate **VOTED** 22-0-2 in favor.

Undergraduate Regulation Change for 12.5 Student Withdraws – Sharon Alston & Selena Healey

Vice Provost for Undergraduate Enrollment Sharon Alston presented the change to allow students to withdraw from all their classes independently instead of being required to meet with their advisor. The rationale is driven by the need to comply with the U.S. Department of Education's rules regarding disbursement of Title IV federal aid. Removing the requirement to meet with an advisor will allow a change in the submission date of the Drop or Withdraw from All Classes Form to bring the process in compliance. Related language changes were made in sections 12.5 a & b, 12.5.2 & 12.5.2.a. of the Undergrad Regulations. After a robust discussion with VP Alston, Dean of Undergraduate Education Jessica Waters and Associate Director of Financial aid Selena Haely, the Senate **VOTED** 21-1-3 in favor.

Graduate Regulation Changes – Wendy Boland and Michael Keynes

Interim Dean of Graduate Studies Wendy Boland and Associate Dean of Graduate Studies Michael Keynes proposed the following changes to the Graduate Regulations to clarify content, correct for inconsistencies, provide more flexibility to advisors and program directors, and incorporate the four-term calendar:

- Admissions Policies- Terminology Update and sections 1.0, 2.1, 2.3, and 2.7 –Senate **VOTED** 21-0-3 in favor.
- Evaluation of Academic Performance sections 3.5, 3.13, and 3.14 –Senate **VOTED** 18-1-3 in favor.
- Degree Requirements – sections 4.1, 4.2, 4.5, 4.7, 4.8, and 4.11- Senate **VOTED** 20-1-1 in favor.
- Requirements for a master's degree sections 5.1, 5.3, 5.4, 6.1, 7.6, and 7.7 –Senate **VOTED** 20-0-4 in favor.
- Requirements for a Doctoral Degree sections 8.4, 8.5, and 8.6 – Senate **VOTED** 21-0-3 in favor.
- Registration Policies/Four-term calendar sections 9.3, 9.4, and 10.3 – Senate **VOTED** 22-0-1 in favor.
- Additional changes were made to the Policy to Appeal Graduate Academic Dismissals – Senate **VOTED** 21-0-2 in favor.

For the Good of the Order – Karen Baehler

Professor Baehler opened the floor to Professor Max Friedman who introduced a proposal to allow students to choose the recently announced pass/fail grading option after they have received their grades. Following a robust discussion, the proposal was referred to a more detailed email conversation after the meeting and subsequently withdrawn by Prof. Friedman via email the following day.

The meeting adjourned at 5:25pm